

Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Proclamation ~~16-32~~ 17-03  
Statewide Big Game Hunting Seasons and Bag Limit  
(Exclusive of Wildlife Management Areas and Refuges)

Pursuant to the authority granted by Tennessee Code Annotated Sections 70-4-107 and 70-5-108, the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission hereby proclaims the statewide big game seasons and bag limits, effective August 1, ~~2016~~2017..

Section I. White-tailed Deer

A. White-tailed Deer Hunting Units

For the purpose of these hunting regulations, the State of Tennessee is hereby divided into five (5) deer units, as follows:

Unit

- A. Bradley, Carter, Hamilton, Hawkins, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, Roane, Sullivan
- B. Anderson, Bledsoe, Campbell, Claiborne, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Grundy, Hancock, Jackson, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Scott, Sequatchie, VanBuren, Warren, White
- C. Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Jefferson, Unicoi, Union, Washington
- D. Blount, Monroe, Polk, Sevier
- L. Bedford, Benton, Cannon, Carroll, Cheatham, Chester, Coffee, Crockett, Davidson, Decatur, Dickson, Dyer, Fayette, Franklin, Gibson, Giles, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Marshall, Maury, McNairy, Montgomery, Moore, Obion, Perry, Robertson, Rutherford, Shelby, Smith, Stewart, Sumner, Tipton, Trousdale, Wayne, Weakley, Williamson, Wilson.

B. White-tailed Deer Bag Limits and Season Dates

1. Statewide - Antlered Deer Bag Limit

The statewide bag limit for antlered deer in Tennessee is two (2). No more than one (1) antlered deer may be taken per day. The only way the bag limit of two antlered deer may be exceeded is if they are taken on TWRA or NWR managed hunts where the antlered deer are noted as bonus deer in the section listing WMA regulations. Deer taken on Ft. Campbell are bonus deer.

## 2. Statewide – Deer Seasons and Bag Limits:

Season Type <sup>a</sup>	Season Dates	Antlered <sup>e</sup> Bag Limit	Antlerless <sup>f</sup> Bag Limits				
		Statewide	Unit L	Unit A	Unit B	Unit C	Unit D
Young Sportsman <sup>b</sup>	Last Saturday in October and the following day	2	3/day (No Season Limit)	2	2	2	2
	First weekend after the close of Gun season						
Archery <sup>c</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday in September to the day before the opening day of Muzzleloader Season			4	4	4	4
Muzzleloader	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday before Thanksgiving to the day before the opening day of Gun Season			2	2	1	1
Gun <sup>d</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday before Thanksgiving through the first full weekend in January			2	1	1 (First 16 Days Only)	1 (First 7 Days Only)

<sup>a</sup> Archery equipment is legal during muzzleloader and gun seasons, muzzleloading equipment is legal during gun season.

<sup>b</sup> Youths 6-16 years of age may participate. Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting, adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

<sup>c</sup> Archery season is closed during the October Young Sportsman hunt.

<sup>d</sup> A Type 94 permit is required to hunt antlerless deer during this season except for landowners hunting under the landowner exemption (as described in T.C.A. 70-2-204), Sportsman license holders (including Lifetime Sportsman), and hunters who possess a Type 167 permit.

<sup>e</sup> Antlered deer are defined as male or female deer with antlers protruding above the hairline.

<sup>f</sup> Antlerless deer are defined as male or female deer with no antler protruding above the hairline.

## 3. Unit L, Private Land, Antlerless, White-tailed Deer Hunt

Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery      Monday following the first full weekend in January through the following Friday.  
Three (3) per day, no season limit

## Section II. Black Bear

## A. Black Bear Bag Limits and Season Dates

Five (5) Bear hunt zones (BHZ) are hereby designated as follows:

BHZ1: Carter, Cocke (North of I-40), Greene, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington Counties.

BHZ2: Blount, Cocke (South of I-40), Jefferson (East of Hwy 411), Sevier Counties.

BHZ3: McMinn (East of Hwy 411), Monroe, Polk (East of Hwy 411 and North of Hwy 64) Counties.

BHZ4: Cumberland (North of I-40), Fentress, Morgan, Pickett (East of Hwy 111), and Scott (West of Hwy 27) Counties.

Transitional: Bradley, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Grainger, Jefferson (west of Hwy 411), Knox, Loudon, McMinn (West of Hwy 411), and Polk (West of Hwy 411) Counties

Bear Hunt Zone (BHZ)					
	BHZ 1	BHZ 2	BHZ 3	BHZ 4**	Transitional
Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery (Dogs Allowed)	<del>Oct. 3-7</del> <del>Oct. 31-Nov. 4</del> <del>Nov. 28-Dec. 10</del>	<del>Sep. 26-Oct. 2</del> <del>Oct. 31-Nov. 4</del> <del>Nov. 28-Dec. 22</del>	<del>Oct. 1-9</del> <del>Oct. 31-Nov. 4</del> <del>Nov. 28-Dec. 11</del> <del>Dec. 29-Jan. 4</del>	Closed	Closed
Archery Only (No Dogs)	<del>Sep. 24-Oct. 24</del>	<del>Sep. 24-Oct. 24</del>	<del>Sep. 24-Oct. 24</del>	<del>Sep. 24-Oct. 24</del>	<del>Sep. 24-Oct. 24</del>
Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery (No Dogs)	<del>Nov. 19-22</del>	<del>Nov. 19-22</del>	<del>Nov. 19-22</del>	Closed	Closed
Young Sportsman* G/M/A (No Dogs)	<del>Oct. 29-30</del>	<del>Oct. 29-30</del>	<del>Oct. 29-30</del>	Closed	Closed

\* Youths 6-16 years of age may participate. Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

\*\* The following areas within BHZ4 are closed to bear hunting: Big South Fork River and Recreation Area, Scott State Forest, and Obed National Scenic River Corridor.

Bear Hunt Zone (BHZ)							
Season/Method		BHZ 1	BHZ 2	BHZ 3	BHZ 4**	Transitional	
<u>Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery</u> <u>(Dogs Allowed)</u>	<u>Segment 1</u>	<u>5 consecutive days beginning the first Monday in October</u>	<u>7 consecutive days beginning the first Monday after the 4th Saturday in September.</u>	<u>9 consecutive days beginning the Saturday following the 4th Saturday of September.</u>	<u>Closed</u>		
	<u>Segment 2</u>	<u>5 consecutive days beginning the first Monday after the last Saturday in October.</u>			<u>Closed</u>		
	<u>Segment 3</u>	<u>20 consecutive days beginning the 1st Monday after Thanksgiving.</u>	<u>25 consecutive days beginning the 1st Monday after Thanksgiving.</u>	<u>14 consecutive days beginning the 1st Monday after Thanksgiving.</u>	<u>Closed</u>		
	<u>Segment 4</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>4 consecutive days beginning the last Thursday in December</u>	<u>Closed</u>		
<u>Archery (No Dogs)</u>	<u>28 consecutive days beginning the 4th Saturday in September.</u>						
<u>Gun/Muzzleloader/Archery</u> <u>(No Dogs Allowed)</u>	<u>4 consecutive days beginning the 1st Saturday before Thanksgiving.</u>				<u>Closed</u>		
<u>Young Sportsman*</u> <u>G/M/A (No Dogs)</u>	<u>2 consecutive days beginning the last Saturday in October</u>				<u>Closed</u>		

## B. Bear Dog Training Season:

No bears may be taken. No weapons may be possessed. The following zones are open for a bear dog training season during daylight hours only.

BHZ 1 and 2 Aug. 20-Sep. 25, 2016 37 consecutive days ending the last Sunday in September.

BHZ 3 Sep. 7-16, 2016 10 consecutive days beginning the first Wednesday after Labor Day.

BHZ 4 and Transitional Closed

## C. Special Bear Hunting Regulations:

1. The bear bag limit for any person participating in the statewide hunt or Bear Party-Dog Hunts or both shall not exceed one (1) bear per license year.
2. Cubs or female bears with cubs at side may not be taken at any time. A cub is defined as any bear weighing seventy-five (75) pounds or less.

## Section III. Elk Hunting Season

## A. Elk Permits

1. Elk harvest is regulated by a quota permit system. Landowners are not exempt from this permit requirement and must be drawn for a quota permit to hunt. Eleven (11) quota permits will be issued in 2016.
2. Elk permits are valid for designated Elk Hunt Zones (EHZ) on North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (WMA) as outlined below and, with landowner permission, on private lands in Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Scott, and Morgan Counties. It is the responsibility of Elk Permit holders to obtain verbal or written permission to hunt on private property. TWRA does not guarantee hunter access on private lands.

## B. Areas open for Elk Hunting

1. Public Land- Elk hunting on public land is only permitted on the North Cumberland WMA and only in Elk Hunting Zones (EHZ) designated open by TWRA.

Seven (7) EHZs are designated on the North Cumberland WMA as described below.

The five (5) EHZ's open for the 2016 elk season are EHZ 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7. EHZ 1 and 4 are closed for 2016.

The five (5) EHZ's open for the 2017 elk season are EHZ 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7. EHZ 5 and 6 are closed for 2017.

## EHZ 1: Chestnut Ridge and Fork Mountain

That portion of the North Cumberland WMA west of I-75 and east of the Southern railroad tracks. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

## EHZ 2: Adkins and Turley Mountain

That portion west of the Southern Railroad tracks, east of Red Ash Rd. to Wheeler Gap, northeast of Adkins Mountain Road to Jenny Gap, east of Straight Fork Rd. to State Highway 63, east of Hwy 63 to the Southern Railroad tracks. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

## EHZ 3: Horse Gap and Wolf Ridge

That portion of North Cumberland WMA south of Adkins Mountain Rd. to Huckaby Knob, west of the trail on Brushy Mountain Ridge to Montgomery Fork Creek, north of Montgomery Fork Creek (downstream) to the North Cumberland WMA boundary line and east of the North Cumberland WMA boundary line to Jenny Gap. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

## EHZ 4: Anderson and Massengale Mountain

That portion on the North Cumberland WMA south of Montgomery Fork Creek to Little Bruce Ridge, west of Little Bruce Ridge to Short Haul Rd. to Grave Gap, north of Massengale Mountain road to Poor Mountain Road, north of Poor Mountain Rd. to Norma Rd., east of Norma Rd. to Montgomery Fork Creek. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

## EHZ 5: Cross Mountain and Red Ash

That portion on the North Cumberland WMA South of Red Ash Rd. to Wheeler Gap, west of Adkins Mountain Rd. to Huckaby Knob, east of the trail on the Brushy Mountain Ridge to Montgomery Fork Creek, east of Little Bruce Ridge to Short Haul Rd., east of Massengale Rd. to Ash Log Gap, north of boundary back to Southern Railroad, west of Southern Railroad to Red Ash Church. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

## EHZ 6: Braden Mountain

That portion of the North Cumberland WMA, north of State Hwy 63, west of State Hwy 297, and east of the Rock House community. EHZ 6 also includes the Mon Petit / Atlas Petroleum property which joins the North Cumberland Boundary on the north. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

## EHZ 7: Tackett Creek

That portion of the North Cumberland WMA, Tackett Creek Unit, south of Tennessee and Kentucky State Line, north of the Cumberland Trail State Park and east of US Hwy 25W. All safety zones designated by TWRA and private property excluded.

2. Private Land - Elk hunting on private land is only permitted in counties designated open by TWRA and only with landowner permission. Five (5) counties are designated open including: Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Scott, and Morgan Counties.

## 3. Elk season dates, quota and bag limits.

<b>Archery-only Season</b>	<b>Gun/Muzzleloader/ Archery Season</b>	<b>Young Sportsman* Gun/Muzzleloader/ Archery Season</b>	<b>Hunt Area**</b>	<b>Bag Limit</b>
First Monday of October through Friday (5 day season)	Third Monday of October through Friday (5 day season)	Saturday and Sunday following the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday in October (2 day season)	EHZs and Counties designated open by TWRA	1 antlered elk per permit
5 Quota Permits	5 Quota Permits	1 Quota Permit		

\* Resident youths 13-16 may apply for quota permit. Young sportsmen must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device and who must also comply with fluorescent orange regulations, as specified for legal hunters. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

\*\* EHZs are located on North Cumberland WMA only; all other public land is CLOSED to elk hunting. Hunting on private lands within the following counties is allowed with landowner permission: Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Scott, and Morgan Counties.

## a. Annual quota permit allocation.

The Executive Director is authorized to issue one permit to a qualifying non-profit wildlife conservation organization, in accordance with Rule 1660-1-25.

The remaining permits will be allocated by a drawing conducted by TWRA. Drawing procedures will be posted by TWRA prior to the application period.

## 4. Special Regulations

- a. Quota permit holders will be assigned an EHZ as designated by TWRA. However, if during the course of the hunt, one hunter remains with an unfilled tag, that hunter may be re-assigned an open EHZ according to TWRA specifications. Additionally, hunters may hunt private lands within open counties as designated by TWRA.
- b. Young Sportsman quota permit holder will be allowed to hunt in all EHZs designated open by TWRA and also private lands, with landowner permission, in designated open counties.
- c. All harvested elk (both private and public land) must be checked at the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area Office on the day of harvest.
- d. The harvest location must be adequately marked so that TWRA employees can identify the harvest site which can be accomplished by either providing GPS coordinates or accompanying a TWRA employee to the harvest site.
- e. Use or possession of electronic tracking equipment is prohibited.

- f. Bugling or calling of elk is prohibited within the EHZs during all elk hunts except by permitted hunters and their assistants.

#### Section IV. General Regulations for Spring and Fall Turkey Harvest

##### A. Miscellaneous

1. The use of any type of food to feed or attract wild turkeys on WMAs is prohibited. Shooting or stalking turkeys from a boat in Shelby, Dyer, Tipton, Lauderdale, Haywood or Obion counties prohibited. Calling or attempting to call wild turkeys using any call to mimic the sounds made by a wild turkey is prohibited from March 1st to the opening day of the spring turkey hunts on all WMAs.
2. A licensed turkey hunter, who has filled his/her bag limit or does not possess a valid permit for a quota hunt, may accompany another turkey hunter (except on Oak Ridge WMA) and assist him/her in calling, but may not have a gun or bow in his possession.
3. Legal shooting hours for turkey - Thirty (30) minutes before sunrise to sunset

##### B. Spring Turkey

###### 1. Season Dates

Statewide: Saturday closest to April 1<sup>st</sup> and closes 43 days thereafter (a Sunday).

Young Sportsmen Hunt (6-16 years of age): The Saturday and Sunday before opening day of Spring Turkey Season. Youths must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 21 years of age or older, who must remain in a position to take immediate control of the hunting device, who is not required to have a license. Multiple youths may be accompanied by a single qualifying adult.

###### 2. Bag and Possession Limits

Statewide: one (1) bearded turkey per day, not to exceed four (4) per season.

Young Sportsmen hunt: one (1) bearded turkey per day (counts toward 4 per season limit).

The four bearded turkeys per season bag limit may only be exceeded if turkeys are taken on TWRA or NWR managed hunts where the bearded turkeys are specifically noted as bonus turkeys in the proclamations regarding hunting seasons on WMAs and NWRs.

##### D. Fall Turkey (Shotgun/Archery)

Open for the 14 days preceding the October Young Sportsman Deer Hunt.

The following counties are closed to fall turkey hunting: Bledsoe, Bradley, Crockett, Dyer, Giles, Haywood, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, Polk, Shelby, Tipton, Unicoi, and Wayne. All other counties are open with a bag limit of one (1) turkey, either sex.

Turkeys may also be harvested with archery equipment during the deer archery-only season and count toward the fall county bag limit.

Section V. Special Regulations.

1. During deer check-in and on WMA hunts where there are special antler regulations, a legal antler point is a projection at least one inch long, measured from the tip of the point to the nearest edge of the beam, following the mid-line of the projection.
2. Deer and turkey defined as "bonus" animals in the proclamations regarding hunting seasons on WMAs and NWRs do not count toward statewide, seasonal, or daily bag limits.

Section VI. Repeal of Prior Proclamations

This proclamation repeals Proclamation No. ~~45-03~~ 16-32.

Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of a proclamation lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission on the \_\_\_\_<sup>th</sup> day of May, ~~2016~~2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~2016~~2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Proclamation No. ~~46-32~~17-03 received and recorded this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, ~~2016~~2017; to be effective the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

Proc. ~~46-32~~17-03